on the subject of the control of the forts was defined immediately after the meeting of Congress *in* a memorandum[1] drawn up on December 9th by the members of the House from South Carolina for the information of Mr, Buchanan. These gentlemen had called on the President, and he had requested them to state their views in writing. This they did, although remarking that they could not undertake to say what the convention, which was to meet in about ten days to consider the question of secession, would see fit to do. In the paper which they handed to the President, they said: " We now express to you our strong convictions that neither the constituted authorities, nor any body of the people of the State of South Carolina, will either attack or molest the United States forts in the harbor of Charleston previously to the action of the convention, and we hope and believe not until an offer has been made, through an accredited representative, to negotiate for an amicable arrangement of all matters between the State and Federal Government, provided that no reinforcement shall be sent into those forts, and their relative military status shall remain as at present/' This last expression was explained to mean that there should be no change in the occupation of the

forts, such as transferring Major Anderson's command from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter.[8]

Here we observe a recognition on the part of the South Carolina representatives of the propriety of

[1] 1 W. R., 116, 126. *Cf.* Governor Gist's letter of November 29, 1860, to Trescot, Assistant Secretary of State; Crawford, 31.

[2] I W. R., 126.